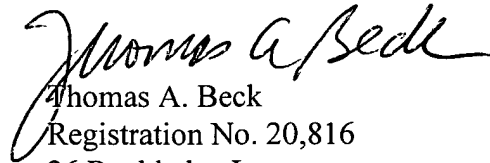


claims 1, 4-7, 9-31, 33, 46-48, 52-58.

In view of the arguments and modifications to the claims, allowance of this case is warranted. Such favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

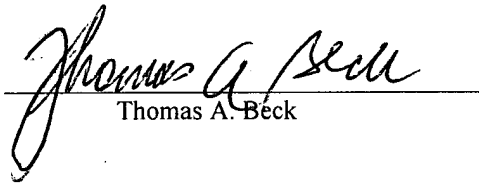


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the United States Postal Service, first class mail, postage prepaid on the date shown below, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, United States Patent & Trademark Office, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 15, 2006


Thomas A. Beck